

### **Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application.

### **Listing of the Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) An actuation device for a flap element of a variable top receptacle having at least one wall element that is pivotable between a first and a second position, wherein the actuation device comprises a leaf spring element that is arranged and constructed to traverse a point of maximum elastic deformation between its first and second position by interacting with the wall element during pivoting of the wall element, ~~and wherein the leaf spring element is~~ further arranged and constructed so as to assume a substantially undeformed state in each of the first and second positions, ~~[[and]] one end of the leaf spring element is stationary during pivoting of the wall element between the first and second positions and the leaf spring includes two legs connected via a curved portion arranged and curved such that its curvature lies within an angle~~ ( $\alpha$ ) traversed by the wall element during its pivoting movement.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently amended) An actuation device according to claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1, further comprising a fixed bracket, wherein the one end of the leaf spring is substantially rigidly supported on the bracket in a longitudinal direction of the leaf spring and another end of the leaf spring is movably supported in the longitudinal direction of the leaf spring.

4. (Currently amended) An actuation device according to claim 3, ~~wherein the leaf spring includes two legs connected via a curved portion, wherein the curved portion is arranged and curved such that its curvature lies within an angle ( $\alpha$ ) traversed by the wall element during its pivoting movement and wherein the middle point of its~~ a radius of curvature of the leaf spring and the pivotal axis of the wall element lie on ~~opposing~~ opposite sides of the leaf spring.

5. (Currently amended) An actuation device according to claim 4, wherein the leaf spring ~~element~~ is arranged and constructed to cooperate with a lever element that is fixedly disposed on the wall element.
6. (Previously presented) An actuation device according to claim 5, wherein the lever element is affixed to the wall element proximal to the pivotal axis of the wall element.
7. (Previously presented) An actuation device according to claim 6, wherein the lever element is cam-shaped.
8. (Currently amended) An actuation device according to claim 7, wherein the point of maximum deflection of the leaf spring ~~element~~ lies substantially at the bisecting line of the angle ( $\alpha$ ) between the first and second positions of the wall element.
9. (Currently amended) An actuation device according to claim 8, wherein the leaf spring ~~element~~ elastically biases the wall element at least in one of the first position and the second position.
10. (Currently amended) An actuation device according to claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1, ~~wherein the leaf spring includes two legs connected via a curved portion, wherein the curved portion is arranged and curved such that its curvature lies within an angle ( $\alpha$ ) traversed by the wall element during its pivoting movement and~~ wherein ~~its~~ a radius of curvature of the leaf spring and the pivotal axis of the wall element lie on ~~opposing~~ opposite sides of the leaf spring.
11. (Currently amended) An actuation device according to claim 1, wherein the leaf spring ~~element~~ is arranged and constructed to cooperate with a lever element that is fixedly disposed on the wall element and the lever element is affixed to the wall element proximal to the pivotal axis of the wall element.
12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously presented) An actuation device according to claim 5, wherein the lever element is cam-shaped.

14. (Currently amended) An actuation device according to claim 1, wherein the point of maximum deflection of the leaf spring element lies substantially at the bisecting line of the angle ( $\alpha$ ) between the first and second positions of the wall element.

15. (Currently amended) An actuation device according to claim 1, wherein the leaf spring element is arranged and constructed to elastically bias the wall element at least in the first or the second position.

16. (Currently amended) A vehicle comprising:

a stowable top movably disposed on a body of the vehicle,

a receptacle at least partially disposed in a rear portion of the vehicle body, wherein the receptacle defines a volume that is variable by pivoting a wall element thereof between a first position defining a maximum receptacle volume and a second position defining a minimum receptacle volume, wherein the receptacle is arranged and constructed to accommodate the stowable top in the first position, and

~~an actuation device comprising a~~ leaf spring element having a first end fixedly coupled to one of the vehicle body and a rear truck lid pivotably coupled to the vehicle body, the leaf spring element being arranged and constructed to contact the wall element at least during pivoting movement of the wall element and to traverse a point of maximum elastic deformation of the leaf spring element between the first and second position of the wall element, wherein the leaf spring element is arranged and constructed such that the restoring force of the leaf spring element is substantially at a minimum when the wall element is disposed in the first position and the second position, respectively, ~~[[and]]~~ the first end of the leaf spring element remains stationary during the pivoting movement of the wall element and the leaf spring includes two legs connected via a curved portion arranged and curved such that its curvature lies within an angle ( $\alpha$ ) traversed by the wall element during its pivoting movement.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently amended) A vehicle according to claim ~~[[17]]~~ 16, ~~wherein the actuation device further comprises~~ further comprising a bracket fixedly mounted on a rear trunk lid, wherein the first end of the leaf spring is substantially rigidly supported on the bracket in a longitudinal direction of the leaf spring and a second end of the leaf spring is movably supported in the longitudinal direction of the leaf spring.

19. (Currently amended) A vehicle according to claim 18, ~~wherein the actuation device further comprises~~ further comprising a lever element rigidly affixed to the wall element proximal to the pivotal axis of the wall element, wherein the leaf spring is arranged and constructed to be deflected by the lever element during pivoting movement of the wall element.

20. (Previously presented) A vehicle according to claim 19, wherein the lever element is cam-shaped.

21. (Currently amended) A device configured to, at least in part, vary the size of a convertible top receptacle comprising:

a wall element pivotable between a first position and a second position, and

a leaf spring interacting with the wall element, wherein the leaf spring is configured to traverse a point of maximum elastic deformation during pivoting of the wall element between the first and second positions and to assume a substantially undeformed state at each of the first and second positions of the wall element, wherein one end of the leaf spring remains stationary during pivoting of the wall element between the first and second positions and the leaf spring includes two legs connected via a curved portion arranged and curved such that its curvature lies within an angle ( $\alpha$ ) traversed by the wall element during its pivoting movement.